

Appln. No. 10/583,370
Amd. dated April 1, 2010
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2010

REMARKS

The examiner and the undersigned had a telephone discussion on March 30, 2010, about allowable claim language that would obviate the outstanding enablement and obviousness rejections. The amendments to claim 19 are as discussed with the examiner. The term "hepatic fibrosis" is supported in the present specification at page 36, line 28, and the treatment of hepatic fibrosis is implicitly supported by the disclosure throughout the specification, as would be recognized and understood by those of ordinary skill in the art. The recitation of "IL-6 fused to another protein or polypeptide" is supported in the present specification at page 18, lines 6-7.

Claims 28, 33, 34, 40, 55 and 59-61 are amended to be consistent with amended claim 19. Claims 33 and 34, which depend from claim 19, are to be rejoined, as discussed with the examiner in view of the language of "IL-6 fused to another protein or polypeptide" in claim 19. New claims 63-66 are merely added to track the language of claims 33 and 34 but instead are dependent from independent claim 40 or 55.

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Favorable consideration and early allowance are
hereby respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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